

Introduction to DTSC's Draft Public Participation Policy and Guidance Manual

Thank you for taking the time to review DTSC's Public Participation Policy and Guidance Manual. The manual plays an integral part in the Hazardous Waste Management (permitting and corrective action), and Site Mitigation (site cleanup) processes. DTSC staff members, consultants, property owners, responsible parties, project proponents, and the public utilize the manual as an information resource for requirements and recommendations for public involvement.

The manual was first created in 1989 and updated in 1994 and 1997. This draft revision rewrites and clarifies many sections of the manual, and updates others.

Key updates include:

- ❑ New State Superfund requirements for public participation,
- ❑ Guidelines for public participation in corrective action,
- ❑ Revisions to public participation during the Preliminary Endangerment process at proposed school sites,
- ❑ Guidelines on the use of electronic communications, and
- ❑ Revisions to guidance for public participation during CEQA.

For your ease, the manual has been broken up in sections on DTSC's web site.

These are:

- ❑ Chapters 1 and 2
These two chapters provide a framework for the manual, discussing format and general authorities for public participation.
- ❑ Chapter 3
This chapter discusses the Site Mitigation process
- ❑ Chapter 4
This chapter discusses the permitting, corrective action, closure, authorization and other processes under the Hazardous Waste Management program.
- ❑ Chapter 5
This chapter discusses public participation for CEQA decisions.
- ❑ Chapter 6
This chapter is broken down into several sub-sections which describe the various public participation tools such as community assessment, fact sheets, public notices, meetings, response-to-comments, etc.

When complete, the manual will include a glossary, index, forms, and examples of public participation documents.

DTSC invites your comments on its Public Participation Policy and Guidance manual, and will review them in developing a final version of the manual. Comments will be received through June 30, 2001. They may be e-mailed to Jim Marxen, Chief of Public Participation, at jmarxen@dtsc.ca.gov; or mailed to Jim Marxen, Public Participation Branch, Department of Toxic Substances Control, P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806.

DTSC plans to complete the final revised version by late summer 2001.

Thank you.